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## On-site Visit Report

### Leisure World Par-3 Golf Course

Seal Beach, California

Date: August 17, 2021

Present:

Jose Anguiano Sr., L&L Landscape  
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Pat Gross, Pat Gross Turf Solutions

## **Executive Summary**

### Putting greens

- The greens are healthy and in good condition. It was remarkable to see the high population of creeping bentgrass on the greens, which is a sign that the greens are managed in an agronomically sound manner.
- Remove patches of kikuyugrass using plugs from the practice green; the area used for plugs should be sodded with creeping bentgrass.
- Spot treat infestations of swinecress with Trimec Bentgrass Formulation or Lontrel herbicide at recommended label rates. Treat infestations of black cutworm with Lesco Cross Check at recommended label rates.
- Aerate the greens in April and October by applying a heavy layer of sand topdressing followed by the use of ½" solid tines.
- Continue with the current fertilizer program.

### Tees

- Good agronomic programs are employed on the tees for mowing and weed control.
- Patch weak areas on tees 2, 3, and 5 with Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass sod.
- Overseed the tees in October with perennial ryegrass.

### Fairways and rough

- The fairways and rough display a clean, manicured appearance with good playing quality.
- Continue with the current fertilizer program on the fairways and rough.

### Bunkers

- The new sand along with good maintenance practices are providing good playing conditions in the bunkers.

### Irrigation system and water management

- The maintenance staff is doing a good job of repairing and maintaining the irrigation system.
- Water applications are properly managed to promote healthy turf growth and good playing conditions without creating wet spots or dry areas.

## Introduction

The following report summarizes the discussions and recommendations made during the site visit to Leisure World Par-3 Golf Course on August 17, 2021. The focus of the visit was to evaluate the condition of the golf course and offer suggestions to fine tune maintenance programs. Specific topics covered in this report include:

- Putting greens
- Tees
- Fairways and rough
- Bunkers
- Irrigation and water management

## Putting greens

Turf health and playing quality – The following is a summary of the observations regarding the putting greens:

- The greens displayed healthy creeping bentgrass growth over 95%+ of the total surface area. Given the age of the greens, it was remarkable to see the high percentage of creeping bentgrass and the very low percentage of *Poa annua*.
- It was reported that the greens are mowed 6 days per week at a cutting height of 3/16", which provides acceptable ball roll and preserves healthy turf growth.
- Soil profile samples taken from the greens showed deep and vigorous root growth to a depth of 6" with a moderate amount of thatch and organic matter in the top 1-1/2" near the surface. This is an indication that the greens are managed in an agronomically sound manner.
- Patches of kikuyugrass were observed on several greens as well as spots of swinecress and evidence of cutworm feeding.
- Tree root encroachment was noted on greens 2 and 4, but tree roots are not causing serious problems at this time.
- Overall, the putting greens are healthy and in good condition.



*Soil profile sample from #5 green showing deep healthy roots and moderate thatch.*

Kikuyugrass control – To eliminate patches of kikuyugrass in the centers of greens, it was recommended to use a 4” or 8” hole plugger to physically remove the infestations of kikuyugrass and replace the areas with the same size plugs of creeping bentgrass taken from the edge of the practice green. The turf from the practice green will match perfectly with the sod on the greens. It is then recommended to purchase creeping bentgrass sod to repair the practice green and allow the new sod to gradually adapt to the conditions on the practice green.

Swinecress and black cutworm control – Infestations of swinecress (*Coronopsis didymus*) can be controlled with spot applications of *Trimec Bentgrass Formulation* or *Lontrel* herbicide at recommended label rates. Infestations of black cutworm can be controlled with an application of the granular insecticide *Lesco Cross Check* (active ingredient = *bifenthrin*) at recommended label rates.



*Photo of swinecress (left) and black cutworm damage (right).*

Aeration and sand topdressing – The current program involves aerating the greens with hollow tines in the spring and fall. Instead of using hollow tines, it is recommended to aerate the greens in April and October by placing a heavy layer of sand over the surface of the greens (approximately ¼”) followed by aerating with ½” solid tines over the top of the sand. The solid tines will push the sand into the greens and then the surfaces should be brushed with a push broom to work the remaining sand into the holes. This process is faster, cleaner and promotes quicker recovery.

Fertilizer program – The current program of using *Lebanon 17-0-17* granular fertilizer on a monthly schedule is producing good results and should continue as planned. A recommended guideline is to apply 2 to 3 lbs. of this material per 1000 sq. ft. with each application.

Kikuyugrass encroachment from the edges of greens – The current program involves mechanically edging the greens 2 times per week with a motorized edger. It was recommended to test the use of the Greens Turf Tamer™, which is a device that looks similar to a pizza cutter that effectively cuts encroaching kikuyugrass stolons without generating debris. The [Greens Turf Tamer Part # 126T100](#) device is available through [www.Precision USA](http://www.PrecisionUSA.com).



*Photo of the Greens Turf Tamer used for edging greens.*

## **Tees**

Turf health and playing quality – The tees displayed good grooming and healthy hybrid bermudagrass growth in most areas with weak patches noted on tees 2, 3, and 5. It was reported that tees are mowed 6 days per week at a cutting height of ½”, which is a high level of maintenance compared to other courses. The maintenance staff has done a good job of controlling weeds and clumps of Poa annua, which were reported to be a problem in January.

Patching weak areas on tees with hybrid bermudagrass – It was suggested to patch weak areas on tees 2, 3 and 5 during the month of August with Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass sod. Given the small amount of sod, it would be easiest to purchase the material through Site One Landscape. If necessary, hybrid bermudagrass sod can also be purchased from:

West Coast Turf  
[www.westcoastturf.com](http://www.westcoastturf.com)  
(888) 893-8873



*The installation of Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass sod is recommended for the rear of #5 tee as well as spots on tees 2 and 3.*

Overseeding on tees – It was recommended to overseed the tees with perennial ryegrass in October. This will provide good winter playing quality and divot recovery when the hybrid bermudagrass is dormant. The following steps are recommended for overseeding the tees:

- Core aerate the tees in September.
- During mid-October (the week of October 11<sup>th</sup> would be ideal) use a verticutter or flail mower to scarify the surface of the tees. Mow the tees to remove debris
- Use a drop seeder to apply 8 to 10 lbs. of perennial ryegrass seed per 1000 sq. ft.
- Apply a starter fertilizer such as *Best 15-15-15* to supply ½ lb. nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.
- Make a light application of sand or organic compost to cover the seed.
- Keep the seed moist by irrigating 4 to 5 times per day for 3 to 5 minutes per cycle (2 rotations of the sprinklers). Continue light irrigation for 7 to 10 days until the seed has fully germinated and shows good coverage.
- Place the all tee markers at the front or back of the tee to allow most of the tee space to remain undisturbed during seed germination.
- Reduce irrigation and begin mowing at ¾” once the turf is established (approximately 14 days after seeding). Gradually reduce the mowing height to ½” the following week.
- Repair divots with a mixture of sand and perennial ryegrass seed throughout the winter.

## **Fairways and rough**

Turf health and playing quality – The fairways and rough are a mixture of kikuyugrass, bermudagrass and perennial ryegrass that displayed good color, density and playing quality on the day of the visit. Mowing is performed 2 days per week at a cutting height between  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", which provides good playability and ball support. The currently fertilizer program of applying *Lesco Poly Plus 24-5-11* on a monthly schedule is producing healthy growth, good color and playing conditions, and it was suggested to continue with this program as planned over the coming months.

## **Bunkers**

The bunkers displayed good grooming and playing conditions on the day of the visit. It was reported that the sand was replaced in March, and the new sand provides an attractive white color with good playing quality. The staff is doing a good job of routine edging to properly define the edges of the hazards.



*Example of good grooming practices and new sand found in the bunkers.*

## **Irrigation system and water management program**

The golf course is irrigated with older model Hunter I-25 sprinklers that are controlled by Hunter satellite controller. It was reported that several valves and sprinklers were replaced earlier in the year to get the system in proper operating condition. Despite the age of the system, water applications are managed very well throughout the golf course to provide healthy turf growth and an attractive green color with an absence of wet spots and dry areas.

## Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to visit Leisure World Par-3 Golf Course and offer an unbiased review of your golf course. In my opinion, the golf course is being properly managed from an agronomic perspective. The golf course is very clean, attractive, and well-manicured and appears to provide an enjoyable golfing experience. I trust the suggestions and recommendations contained in this report will help to fine tune current maintenance practices for the enjoyment of your residents and guests. Please call on me if you have any questions regarding this report or if I can provide further assistance.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick J. Gross  
Pat Gross Turf Solutions, LLC

Distribution:

- Jose Anguiano Jr. (via email)